



Maxwell/Gunter AFB

Retiree News

News concerning U. S. Military retirees in the Montgomery, AL area



Vol. 01, Issue 3

May 2004 - July 2004

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Retirees this is your newsletter.
If you have suggestions
please refer them to the
Retiree Activities Office
334-953-6725 or
Marketing 334-953-7410.

Director's Letter

I'm Col. John Burch, USAF (Ret.), and your Director of Retiree Activities Office (RAO) at Maxwell AFB. I want to personally thank each of the dedicated men and women who volunteer to serve in the RAO. The RAO is an All-Volunteer group which daily mans the phones to answer your questions about benefits and services at Maxwell AFB. Each one of us is a retiree with years of service and a wealth of experience that allows us to be of service to you. Without committed volunteers like ours, it just wouldn't be possible. In this, our 25th year of service to Maxwell AFB area retirees, we urgently need you to volunteer a few hours of your time to ensure that we can keep it all going. Call us at (334) 953-6725 or email us at RetireeAffairs@Maxwell.af.mil.

GRAND *Opening* at Lake Martin

Saturday, May 15

FREE! Boat Show
FREE! Hotdogs and Sodas

NEW!

FREE! Sandy Beaches
FREE! Tent Campsites

Call 953-3509 for additional information.

Sponsored by
(Federal endorsement of sponsor not intended.)



Wing Down Days

42 ABW Down Days will be 11 and 18 Jun 04. There will be no medical or pharmacy services. The MPF and Finance Customer Service will also be closed. The BX and Commissary will be open.

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Norman Hall, CMSgt (Ret)

We would like to congratulate CMSgt Norman Hall, USAF (Ret) for being our Maxwell AFB RAO Volunteer of the Year. A native of Birmingham AL, Norm retired in June 1988 from Dover Delaware where he was a Supply Manager. He has been volunteering in the RAO for 2 years. It is through his efforts that we are able to publish our quarterly newsletter and answer the many calls and visitors we receive in the RAO.

If you come in to the Military Personnel Flight (MPF), there is a good chance you will meet Norm, graciously greeting and assisting the retirees that visit customer service. He is always a welcome smiling face. Next time you see him, please congratulate him and say thanks for his outstanding support to our retirees. When not helping out in the RAO or his church, Norm can be found at the golf course or out enjoying his photography.

Officials stress need to update DEERS

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) officials emphasized the importance of updating records when personal eligibility information changes, and noted several ways to make the changes. Beneficiaries may update their DEERS address, telephone number, and e-mail address through several methods:

- DEERS Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>. It's quick and easy and the best time to update is during non-peak hours.
- Visit your local personnel office with a uniformed service ID card facility. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions to update a record for someone who is housebound. Maxwell (MPF) Military Personnel Flight Hours of Operation are: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- Fax address changes to 1 (831) 655-8317.
- Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at

1 (800) 538-9552 or for the Deaf (TTY/TDD): 1 (866) 363-2883. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays

- Mail the changed information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

To update information other than addresses, beneficiaries need to provide documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates; DD 214s; DD 1172s; etc. Contact the MPF at (334) 953-3604 to find out what documents are needed. Once beneficiaries have the necessary documents, they can present them at the MPF or send a letter or fax to the DSO at the address and number noted above.

Unremarried former spouses should note that they are now listed in DEERS under their own Social Security number and not that of the sponsor.

For more information and related links, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm>

Maxwell And Gunter



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Woodworking Class
Ceramics and Framing Classes
Ballroom Dance Classes
Scuba Diving Classes

For more information please call
Maxwell Community Center at 953-7370.

DFAS changes LES to reduce identity theft

Leave and Earning Statements for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees now have more protection over identity theft. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has dropped the first five digits of a person's social security number from all pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

This change is for all hard copy leave and earning statements and does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers personal pay

information (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January 2004, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration also has taken the same step of eliminating the first five social security numbers on the millions of checks it issues.



**DRIVE-THRU
PHARMACY HOURS**
Mon-Fri 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Computer Classes
FREE for retirees!**
6-7 p.m.



Jun 8 & 24 - Word
Jun 10 & 22-Surfing the Web
The classes offer hands on instruction for basic computer skills. Class size is limited to 12 students. RSVP at 953-6725.

MAXWELL BOWLING CENTER

11TH FRAME
SNACK BAR

Open for Lunch Monday - Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Retiree Bowling Special

1st week of each month!

Lunch & Bowl
Only \$5 (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Includes: 2 games, shoes, sandwich of choice, fries and soft drink

Don't Miss Glow Bowl

Every Friday 8:00-10:30 p.m. and
Saturday 5:30-7:30 p.m. and 9:00-11:00 p.m.



Make plans to attend these upcoming events:

February 14, Scotch Doubles Tournament at 1:30 p.m.
March 17, Four Leaf Clover Special from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
April 10, Easter Egg Bowling from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Air Force Times Airman of the Year Nominations

Air Force Times wants your help to recognize one of your fellow airmen as the 2004 *Air Force Times* Airman of the Year. This annual award, sponsored by USBA and GNC, is unique because nominations come from readers like you. So nominate someone you know whose achievements go beyond the call of duty, or whose selfless service is an example to all. Go to www.airforcetimes.com/airman/nominate and fill out the short online nomination form explaining why your nominee deserves this award. Please keep the nomination to no more than 300 words.

The *Air Force Times* Airman of the Year will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC in July to join the other Military Times Service Members of the Year at the formal awards ceremony.

House Passes Budget Resolution

The House passed the FY2005 Budget Resolution by a three-vote margin. See the vote at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll092.xml>. House SBP champion Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) held discussions with Budget Committee chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) and Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) on the need to make sure the House passes a Survivor Benefit Plan fix this year.

In the hours before the final Budget Resolution vote, both leaders reaffirmed to Rep. Miller their intent to find a way to get this done. Although the Budget Resolution doesn't identify a specific funding source, it includes a "reserve fund" placeholder designated for this purpose. This provides flexibility to identify the funding source in weeks ahead so the Armed Services Committee can put an SBP fix in the FY2005 Defense Authorization Act.

AARP Driver Safety Program

AARP now offers a Driver Safety Program especially designed for drivers who are age 50 and older. Participants learn how to avoid driving hazards and the training qualifies motorists in most states for auto insurance discounts (consult your insurance agent).

The program has a minimal course fee and no tests! If interested, call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669) or point your Internet browser to <http://www.aarp.org/drive>.



Information Tickets & Travel

Movie Tickets

Rave \$5.00

Carmike \$5.25

O'Neil \$5.00

Join Us...

The 4th Saturday of each month
for Casino Magic trips to Biloxi!

Call ITT at 953-6351

KEY MAXWELL PHONE NUMBERS

AAFES (BX/PX)	(334) 834-5946
Casualty Affairs.....	(334) 953-5048
Commissary	(334) 953-7175
DEERS, Customer Support.....	(334) 953-6487
Finance, Customer Service	(334) 953-3288
Legal Office	(334) 953-2786
Pass and ID	(334) 953-4283
Retiree Activities.....	(334) 953-6725
Survivor Benefits	(334) 953-8472
TRICARE (Maxwell).....	(334) 953-7854
TRICARE INFO Line.....	1-800-333-5331
Veterans Affairs.....	(334) 242-5077
VA Hotline.....	1-800-820-1726

Cut out and save for future reference.



TMC Testifies on Personnel Issues

The House Armed Services Total Force Subcommittee held a hearing on active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retired personnel on compensation issues. Deputy Director of Government Relations Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), along with MCPO Joe Barnes, USN (Ret) of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), and Erin Harting of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, (EANGUS), testified on the views of The Military Coalition (TMC). TMC witnesses urged attention to the following:

- Ending the SBP age-62 annuity reduction-TMC's top priority this year for retirees and survivors;
- Increased service end strengths consistent with dramatic increases in operations requirements;

- A minimum 3.5% pay increase in next year's Defense Authorization Act; continuing support for military family readiness programs;
- Improved health coverage for Guard and Reserve members; and
- Reduced retirement age for Guard and Reserve

Lange urged the Subcommittee to make funding for improved survivor benefits a priority. "These widows have waited long enough. They need our help now," he said. The formal TMC testimony can be viewed on MOAA's Web site at <http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/Testimony/TMCTestimonyMar242004.pdf>



Boating Classes

Beginning Late May!
Call Outdoor Recreation
at 953-3509 for
information
on class times
and dates.

Survivor Benefit Plan Notes

Survivor Benefit Plan officials offer the following reminders to members of the military retiree community:

- The SBP “Paid Up” provision which allows retirees to stop paying premiums after 30 years of premium payment and reaching age 70 does not go into effect until Oct. 1, 2008.

- In the event of the death of an Air Force retiree, the next of kin should call the Air Force Casualty

Assistance Office at toll free (877) 353-6807 and DFAS at (800) 269-5170.

- A retiree has one year to add a newly acquired spouse if not married on the date of retirement.

- Remarriage options (increase base amount, terminate coverage, or resume previous coverage) are available when spouse coverage has been suspended. It's important to contact DFAS immediately at (800) 321 1080 upon marriage to ensure the time for change does not expire.

Articles appearing in this newsletter may have appeared in newsletters received by the RAO from other military facilities. They have been reprinted for your benefit. Some may have been reworded because we want to give the most current news and information. We would like to thank the other RAOs for sharing their newsletters. We have found each one has information that all retirees need to know.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed by writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to

be the official position or policy of DOD, USAF, or Maxwell AFB, AL. The RAO published this newsletter to inform AF retirees and their family members of changes in legislation, defense policies and other matters affecting their military rights, benefits and other obligations. It contains information about Maxwell AFB and the local retiree community. While every effort is made to verify information in this newsletter, the RAO “volunteer” staff cannot guarantee the accuracy of information furnished by outside agencies.



Sunday Brunch

at the Officers' Club

Retirees \$13.50
All Ranks
non-members \$14.95
Children 4-12 (55¢ x age)
10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Lunch
Daily Starting at 10:30 a.m.!

Maxwell Officers' Club
Maxwell Enlisted Club
The Falcon's Nest

Maxwell Enlisted Club

Bingo



\$2,300

Every Wednesday Night
Games start at 6PM
Cards go on sale at 5PM.
Open to all ranks
Free admission to club members
Non-club members admission is \$5.00

Cypress Tree Golf Course and Maxwell AFB BX

**Purchase a
Beginner Golf Lesson
Package, receive
10% off
a set of starter clubs at the BX**

AFES

AF SERVICES

**Buy a dozen
Titleist Golf Balls
& Receive
\$2 off
A Round of Golf**

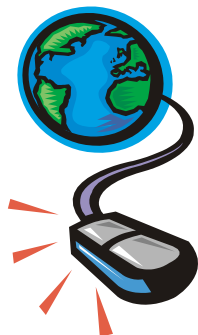
AFES

AF SERVICES

Call 953-2209 for lessons and tee times!

42 MSS/CVR Building 804
50 Lemay Plaza South
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6010

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Visit our new retiree website at: www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/. Let us know what you think. Call Retiree Activities Office at 334-953-6725 or Marketing & Publicity at 334-953-7410 regarding this newsletter.